GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:726
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Changing Forest Cover
Mishra Shri Bhairon Prasad

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the decrease or increase in the forest cover across the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh in 2016; and
(b) the details of measures taken to stop illegal cutting of trees?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, a subordinate organization under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has been carrying out the assessment of forest cover of the country biennially. The findings of the assessment are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). The latest report in the series is India State of Forest Report 2015. As per this report, the total forest cover of the country is 7, 01,673 square kilometers which is 21.34% of the total geographical area of the country. There is a net increase of 3775 square kilometers in the forest cover of the country as compared with India State of Forest Report-2013. The detailed list showing forest cover and change in forest cover States/UTs wise is given in Annexure. As per the ISFR 2015, forest cover of Uttar Pradesh has increased 112 square kilometers as compared to ISFR-2013. The details of decrease or increase in the forest cover in Uttar Pradesh in 2016 is not available.

(b) The protection and management of forest including prevention of illegal cutting of trees is primarily the responsibility of concerned State /Union Territory Governments. This Ministry provides financial assistance to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes including scheme on 'Intensification of Forest Management'. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to strengthen forest protection machinery by way of infrastructure development, use of modern technology, improved mobility by way of deployment of new field vehicles, improved communication and providing arms and ammunition to the front-line forestry force. Uttar Pradesh Forest Department has also informed that to check the menace of illegal felling of trees, a number of measures that include establishment of control room, improved mobility, provision of arms and co-ordination with other law enforcement agencies and administration have been undertaken.

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